Deptt. of Science and Technology, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and National Research and Development Corporation etc.

The detailed procedure is available in the 'Guidelines For Industries—Part I—Policy and Procedure'.

(d) Separate applications are to be made for import of plant and machinery, raw material, foreign collaboration etc.

Crisis in Mini Cement plants

715. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:
SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a press news-item captioned 'Mini cement plants on brink of crisis' as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 28th January, 1988;

(b) if so, whether Government have recently withdrawn the excise concessions and also bracketed mini cement units with major cement plants;

(c) whether the mini cement plants are on the verge of collapse due to restrictions imposed by Government; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to save the mini cement plants in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) No concession in excise duty for the mini cement plants has been withdrawn recently. Certain concessions in excise duty were given to the mini cement plants between 1979 and 31-3-1984 as a result of which the excise duty paid by mini cement plants was lower as compared to that of large sized plants. These concessions were not extended beyond 31-3-1984. However, mini cement plants, which were required to sell the cement produced by them at a controlled price (without distribution control) were exempted from price and distribution controls, on introduction of policy of partial de-control w.e.f. 28th February, 1982.

In order to give relief to the cement industry the Government announced in 1987 a rebate in excise duty of Rs. 50/- per tonne for the large sized cement plants as well as the mini cement plants which commenced production on or after 1-4-1986. Large sized cement plants as well as mini cement plants which commenced production between 1-1-1982 and 31-3-86 have been given a rebate of Rs. 20/- per tonne in excise duty.

Associations of mini cement plants have sent representations to the Government asking for further fiscal reliefs. No decision on the representations has been taken so far. However, in order to improve the viability of the mini cement plants, the Government have allowed them to expand their capacity from 200 tonnes per day to 300 tonnes per day initially and to 600 tonnes per day thereafter subject to certain conditions.

Releasing cars by Maruti Udyog Limited

716. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Maruti Udyog Limited has stopped releasing their cars;

(b) if so, what are the reasons thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that production of Maruti-800 CC cars has decreased during the last six months of 1987 as compared to the first six months of that year;

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that booking holders of 1985 have not been able to get their vehicles in Delhi as the release of vehicles for the Union Territory is